

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05468 101250Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13

AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 AF-08 DHA-02 ORM-02 /119 W

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R 101154Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2596

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

REFS: A) MADRID 5914 (NOTAL), B) LISBON 5240, C) LISBON 5384

1. WE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH THE IBERIAN STATES WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL SHLOMO AVINERI AND, SEPARATELY, WITH ACTING DIRECTOR FOR WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS LEO SAVIR AUGUST 9. AVINERI EXPLAINED THAT ISRAEL IS AWARE THAT SPAIN HAD PLANNED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MEXICO, THE SOVIET UNION AND ISRAEL AS A PACKAGE DEAL WHICH WOULD MEET VARIOUS SPANISH INTERESTS. FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER THE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05468 101250Z

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PACKAGE HAS BEEN DELAYED; FOR EXAMPLE,

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT NOW DOES NOT WISH TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH MEXICO UNTIL PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS COMPLETED HIS TERM OF OFFICE. AVINERI NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE SPANISH FEEL NO URGENCY REGARDING THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE SOVIET INTERESTS IN EFFECT ARE REPRESENTED THROUGH A NAVIGATION COMPANY IN SPAIN WHOSE OFFICE IS HEADED BY A CAREER DIPLOMAT WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. ISRAEL IS WILLING TO BE PETIENT IN THE MATTER SINCE IT FEELS THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF ISRAELI INTERESTS AND THAT THE INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM MADRID. BOTH OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT ISRAEL HAS INDIRECT CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL NOT CHANGE MUCH IN THE SUBSTANTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT MUCH MIGHT BE GAINED INTERNATIONALLY.

2. WHILE THE MFA REGARDS RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WITH PORTUGAL, AVINERI AND SAVIR ARE PLEASED WITH THE RECENT STATEMENTS FROM LISBON REGARDING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND CONSIDER THIS MAY HELP FACILITATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. ISRAEL HAS AN ACTIVE CONSULATE GENERAL IN LISBON ALTHOUGH THE PORTUGUESE HAVE NO REPRESENTATIVE IN ISRAEL. PORTUGUESE TIES WITH EUROPE HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO ISRAEL ALTHOUGH THE ISRAELIS DO NOT WISH TO PUBLICIZE THE ROLE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS HAVE PLAYED IN THE RECENT PORTUGUESE MOVES. SINCE THE SOARES ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS INTENTION REGARDING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, THE GOI HAS NOT INITIATED ANY ACTION BECAUSE OF ITS AWARENESS THAT THIS IS A SENSITIVE QUESTION FOR THE PORTUGUESE MINORITY GOVERNMENT. PRIME MINISTER RABIN SENT A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO SOARES ON HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AND SOARES HAS NOW REPLIED. BOTH OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NOT NOTED ANY NEGATIVE REACTION FROM ARAB CAPITALS TO THE PORTUGUESE ANNOUNCEMENT AND, ON THE CONTRARY, HAVE INDIRECT INFORMATION THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS (COMPARE LISBON 5384).
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